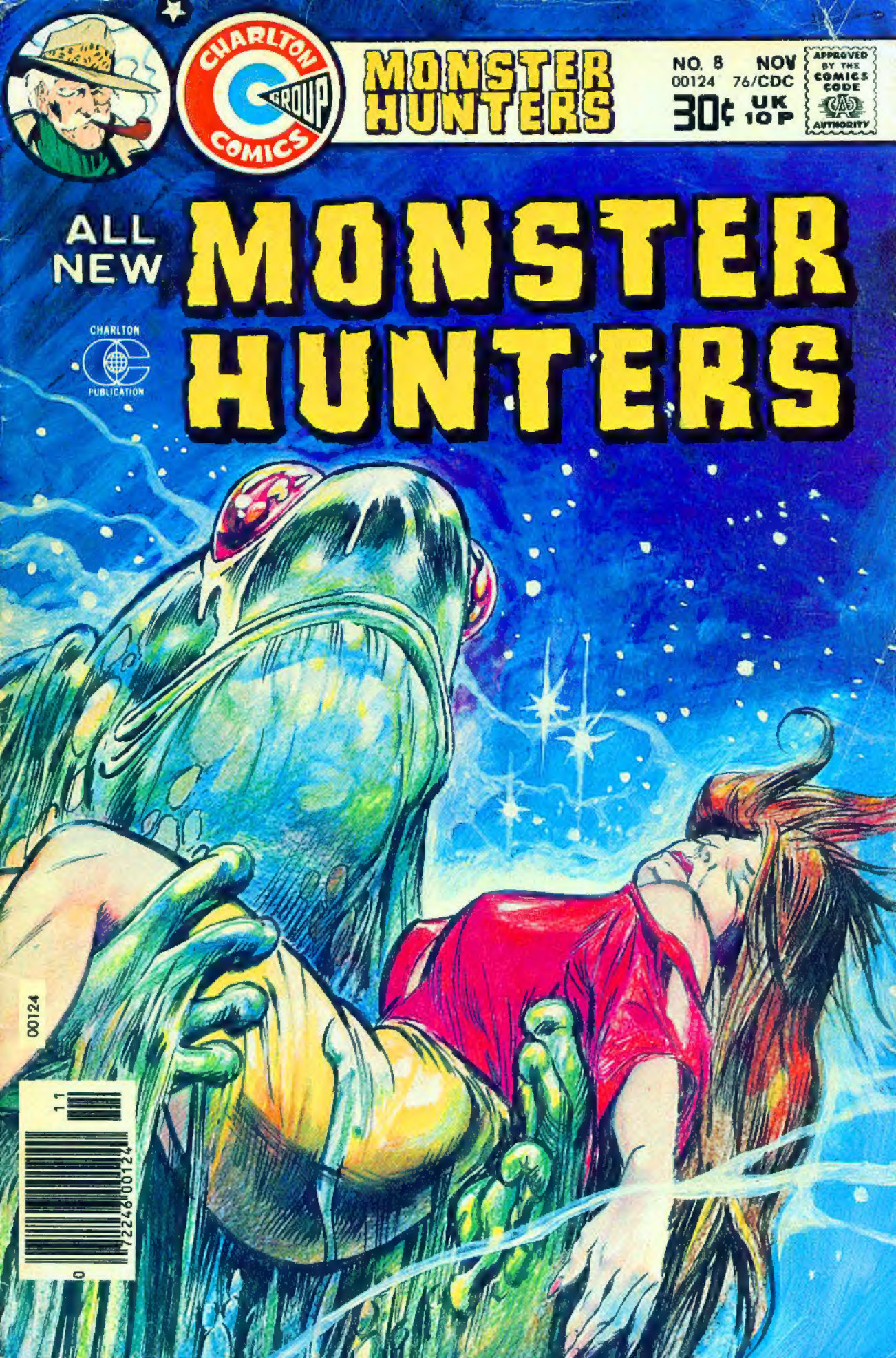
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MONSTER HUNTERS
CHARLTON PUBLICATION
00124

YOU DIDN'T PROTECT MY WIFE, BUT YOU'RE PROTECTING HER MURDERER!
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THE VICIOUS BEAST WITH THIS SILVER SWORD!
OUR GUNS ARE LOADED WITH SILVER BULLETS! THEY'LL PUT AN END TO HIS BRUTAL KILLING!
DO THAT AND YOU'LL BE TRIED FOR HOMICIDE!
THERE WAS NO WAY TO PUNISH THE MONSTER OF WARICK HEATH... FOR THE LAW WAS COMPELLED TO PROTECT...
EDITOR- GEO. WILDMAN
STORY- CARL WESSLER
ART- LARSON/BOXELL
THE UNHOLY KILLER!
THE EYES OF THE ENRAGED PEOPLE OF WARICK HEATH BURNED WITH HATRED...
IT WAS ELIOT HAGGARD'S MISFORTUNE TO BE HIS GHASTLY BROTHER'S SIAMESE TWIN...
HOW CAN YOU SPARE ME, SERGEANT ROYCE...
...WHEN A SCORE OF INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED?
YOU DEFEND A WEREWOLF, THOUGH LYCANTHROPY IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH! YOU CALL THAT JUSTICE?
I'M PROTECTING AN INNOCENT MAN, NOT HIS BUTCHER OF A BROTHER!
KILL ONE SIAMESE TWIN, AND THE OTHER DIES! IF I DESTROY YOUR BROTHER, I MURDER YOU!

MONSTER HUNTERS Vol. 2, No. 8, November, 1976,
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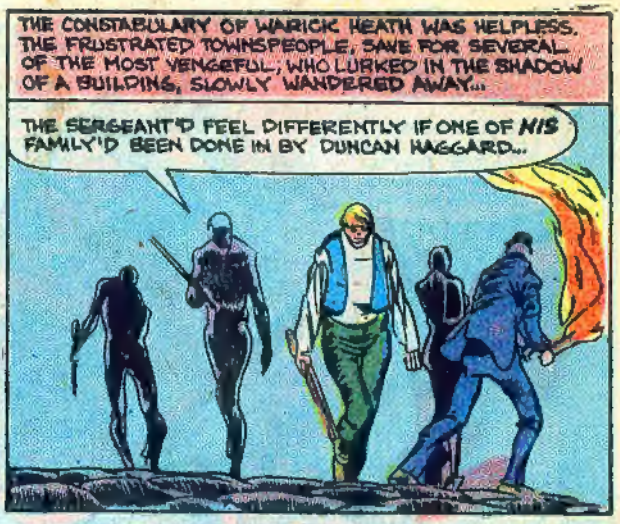
A MrBC Scan!

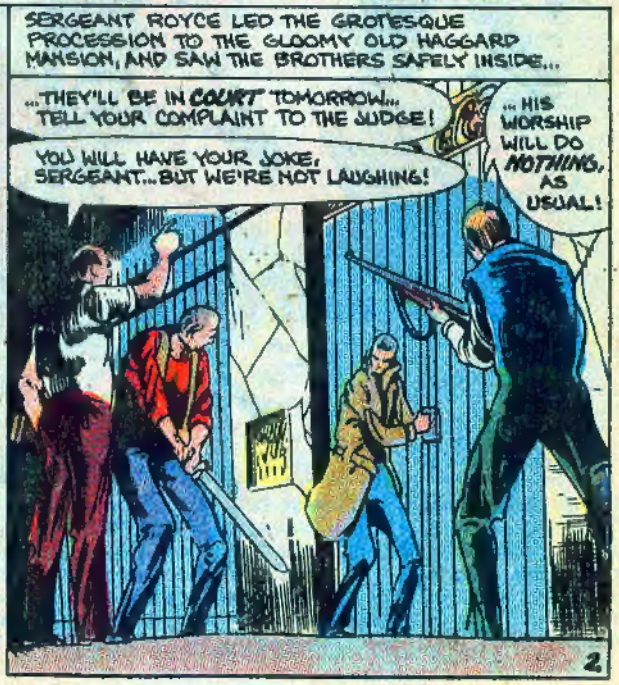
THEN NOTHING IS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE MONSTER THAT TORE MY BROTHER APART WITH HIS FANGS?!
...IT'S AN OUTRAGE!

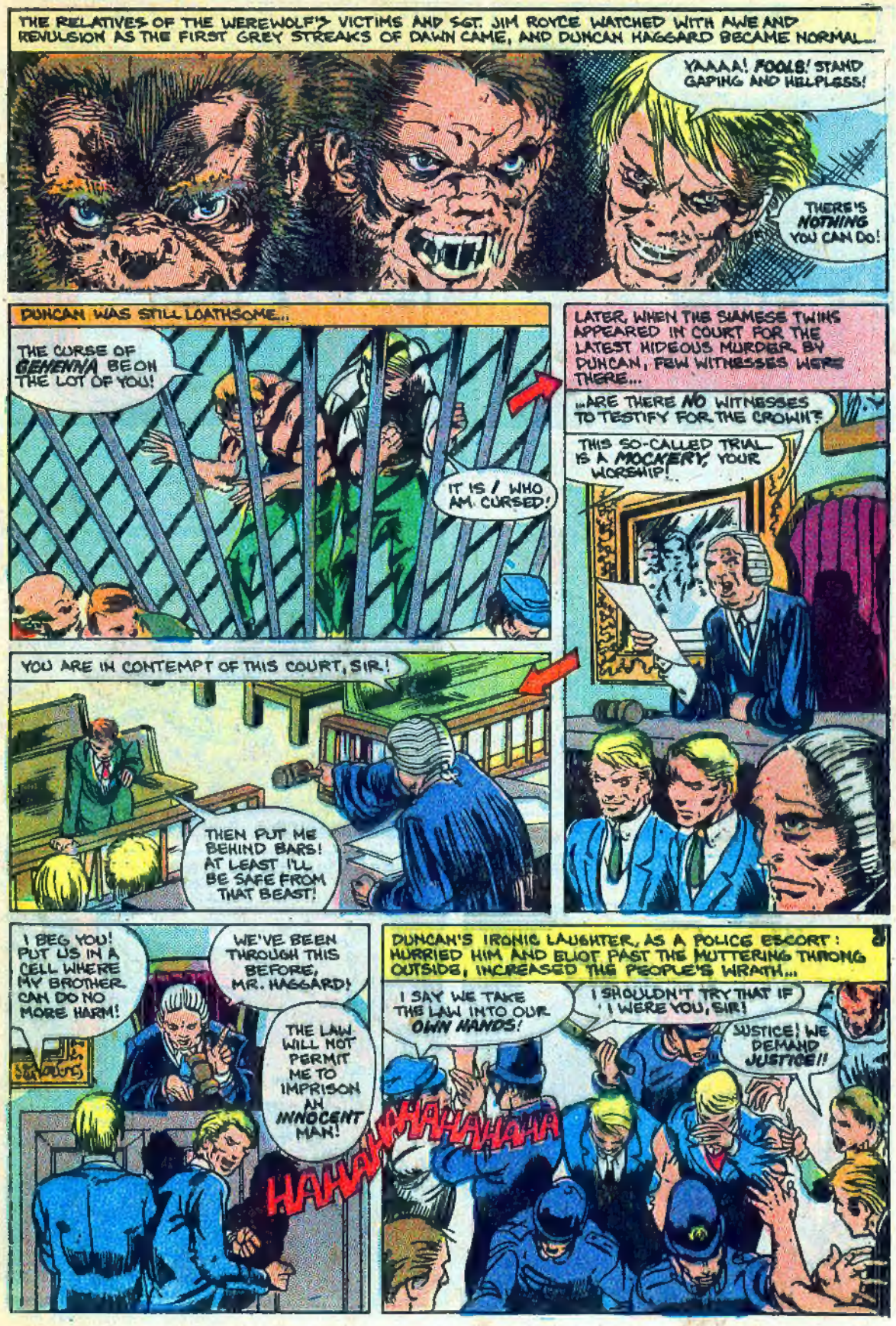

THE CONSTABULARY OF WARICK HEATH WAS HELPLESS. THE FRUSTRATED TOWNSPEOPLE, SAVE FOR SEVERAL OF THE MOST VENGEFUL, WHO LURKED IN THE SHADOW OF A BUILDING, SLOWLY WANDERED AWAY...
THE SERGEANT'D FEEL DIFFERENTLY IF ONE OF HIS FAMILY'D BEEN DONE IN BY DUNCAN HAGGARD...

I SAY WE WAIT TILL THE POLICE GO, THEN HACK THE WEREWOLF TO BITS!
AYE! IT'S NO SKIN OFF OUR NOSE IF 'IS BROTHER ELIOT DIES TOO!

I'M GOING TO ACCOMPANY YOU HOME.. BEST LOCK YOUR GATES, MR. HAGGARD!
LET THEM FOLLOW US!
HA HA HA HA
..LET THEM END THIS MISERY! IT'S WORSE THAN DEATH!

...AFTER THE WEREWOLF'S LATEST VICTIM WAS REMOVED...
LET'S FOLLOW THEM! WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE SOONER OR LATER!
HOW MANY OTHERS WILL DIE BEFORE WE DO?!


SERGEANT ROYCE LED THE GROTESQUE PROCESSION TO THE GLOOMY OLD HAGGARD MANSION, AND SAW THE BROTHERS SAFELY INSIDE...
...THEY'LL BE IN COURT TOMORROW... TELL YOUR COMPLAINT TO THE JUDGE!
...HIS WORSHIP WILL DO NOTHING, AS USUAL!
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR JOKE, SERGEANT...BUT WE'RE NOT LAUGHING!


THE RELATIVES OF THE WEREWOLF'S VICTIMS AND SGT. JIM ROYCE WATCHED WITH AWE AND REVULSION AS THE FIRST GREY STREAKS OF DAWN CAME, AND DUNCAN HAGGARD BECAME NORMAL...
YAAAA! FOOLS! STAND GAPING AND HELPLESS!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
DUNCAN WAS STILL LOATHSOME...
THE CURSE OF GEHENNA BE ON THE LOT OF YOU!
IT IS I WHO AM CURSED!
LATER, WHEN THE SIAMESE TWINS APPEARED IN COURT FOR THE LATEST HIDEOUS MURDER BY DUNCAN, FEW WITNESSES WERE THERE...
...ARE THERE NO WITNESSES TO TESTIFY FOR THE CROWN?
THIS SO-CALLED TRIAL IS A MOCKERY, YOUR WORSHIP!
YOU ARE IN CONTEMPT OF THIS COURT, SIR!
THEN PUT ME BEHIND BARS! AT LEAST I'LL BE SAFE FROM THAT BEAST!
I BEG YOU! PUT US IN A CELL WHERE MY BROTHER CAN DO NO MORE HARM!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE, MR. HAGGARD!
THE LAW WILL NOT PERMIT ME TO IMPRISON AN INNOCENT MAN!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
DUNCAN'S IRONIC LAUGHTER, AS A POLICE ESCORT HURRIED HIM AND ELIOT PAST THE MUTTERING THRONG OUTSIDE, INCREASED THE PEOPLE'S WRATH...
I SAY WE TAKE THE LAW INTO OUR OWN HANDS!
I SHOULDN'T TRY THAT IF I WERE YOU, SIR!
JUSTICE! WE DEMAND JUSTICE!!

THE POLICE STOOD GUARD OUTSIDE OF THE HAGGARD'S GATES FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS...
ARE THE POLICE HERE TO KEEP THE WEREWOLF IN, OR US OUT?
ONLY TIME THEY DON'T WATCH IS WHEN THAT FIEND OF A WOLF-MAN GOES OUT TO MAKE A KILL!
INSIDE THE HAGGARD HOME, ELIOT HAGGARD SHUDDERED AS THE GHASTLY CHANGE CAME OVER HIS PANTING, SNARLING BROTHER ONCE MORE...
UARRR
UARRR
I CAN'T STAND THIS! I CAN'T FACE ANOTHER NIGHT OF HORROR!
...I TOLD THE POLICE ABOUT YOUR SECRET PASSAGE...
...THEY WON'T LET YOU OUT!!
ELIOT'S FEEBLE BLUFF WENT UNHEEDED BY HIS GHASTLY TWIN...
IF IT'S THE WEREWOLF, I'LL STOP HIM SOMEHOW! IT COULD EARN ME A SERGEANT'S STRIPES!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE YOUNG CONSTABLE, HE HAD COME UPON THE SECRET DOORWAY LEADING FROM THE CELLAR PASSAGE...
4
GAAAHHHRRR!!
SNIKSEEE

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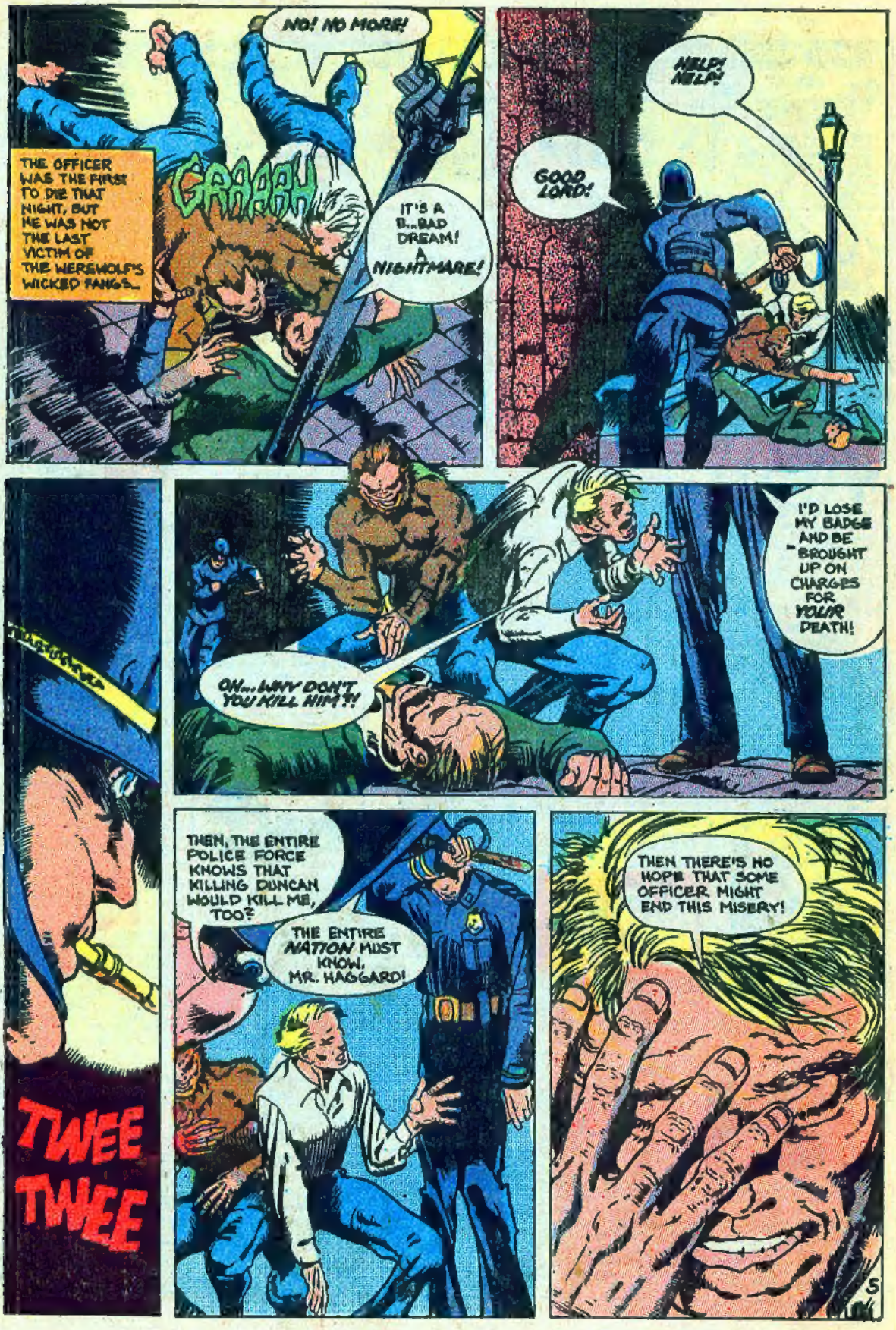
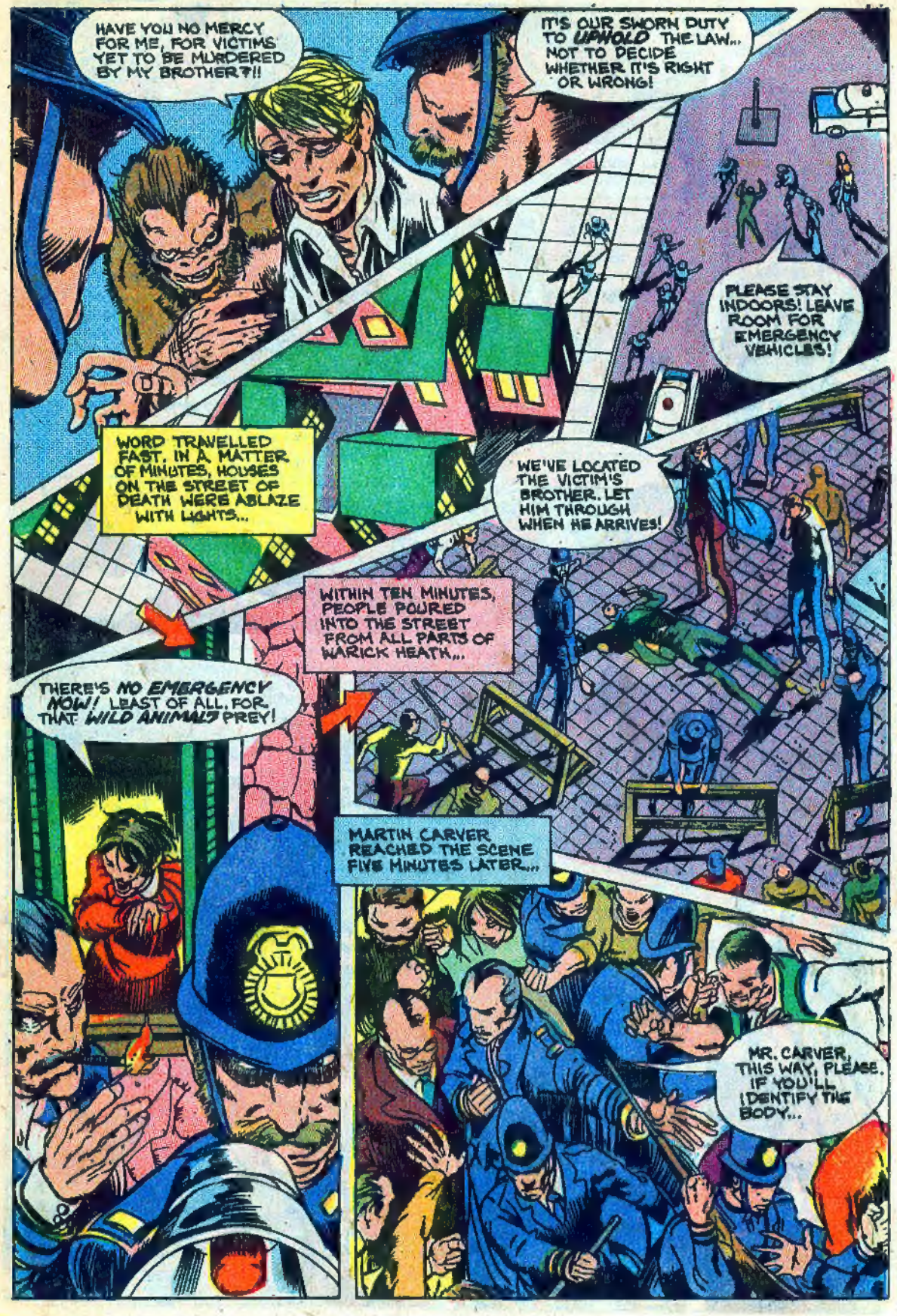

NO! NO MORE!
THE OFFICER WAS THE FIRST TO DIE THAT NIGHT, BUT HE WAS NOT THE LAST VICTIM OF THE WEREWOLF'S WICKED FANGS...
GRRRRH
IT'S A B...BAD DREAM! A NIGHTMARE!
HELP! HELP!
GOOD LORD!
I'D LOSE MY BADGE AND BE BROUGHT UP ON CHARGES FOR YOUR DEATH!
OH... WHY DON'T YOU KILL HIM?!
TWEE TWEE
THEN, THE ENTIRE POLICE FORCE KNOWS THAT KILLING DUNCAN WOULD KILL ME, TOO?
THE ENTIRE NATION MUST KNOW, MR. HAGGARD!
THEN THERE'S NO HOPE THAT SOME OFFICER MIGHT END THIS MISERY!
5


HAVE YOU NO MERCY FOR ME, FOR VICTIMS YET TO BE MURDERED BY MY BROTHER?!!
IT'S OUR SWORN DUTY TO UPHOLD THE LAW... NOT TO DECIDE WHETHER IT'S RIGHT OR WRONG!
PLEASE STAY INDOORS! LEAVE ROOM FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES!
WORD TRAVELLED FAST. IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, HOUSES ON THE STREET OF DEATH WERE ABLAZE WITH LIGHTS...
WE'VE LOCATED THE VICTIM'S BROTHER. LET HIM THROUGH WHEN HE ARRIVES!
WITHIN TEN MINUTES, PEOPLE POURED INTO THE STREET FROM ALL PARTS OF WARICK HEATH...
THERE'S NO EMERGENCY NOW! LEAST OF ALL, FOR THAT WILD ANIMAL? PREY!
MARTIN CARVER REACHED THE SCENE FIVE MINUTES LATER...
MR. CARVER, THIS WAY, PLEASE. IF YOU'LL IDENTIFY THE BODY...

IT'S CHOKE! IT'S MY BROTHER, ALFIE!
LET GO, BLAST YOU!
DUNCAN HAGGARD DESERVES KILLING! IT'S HIS BROTHER I'M PROTECTING!
I'LL KILL HIM AND TAKE MY CHANCES WITH A JURY!
SUDDENLY, ELIOT HAGGARD SPOKE, AND ALL EYES TURNED TOWARD HIM..
ALL THIS FUSS OVER THE DEATH OF ONE MAN! ONE UNIMPORTANT CREATURE AMONG SEVERAL BILLIONS!
COR! HE SOUNDS LIKE 'IS MURDERING BROTHER!
THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE AS ELIOT SPOKE ON, LOOKING MOCKINGLY AT THE MURDERED MAN'S BROTHER...
WHEN YOU INHERIT YOUR BROTHER'S WORLDLY GOODS, YOU'LL WEAR GRIEF ON YOUR FACE, BUT THERE'LL BE JOY IN YOUR HEART!
FILTHY SWINE!
FOOL!
..DON'T YOU SEE THAT HE DELIBERATELY BAITED YOU, CARVER!
I'M SORRY, CARVER... I HAD TO MAKE YOU SHOOT ME. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP MY BROTHER!
YES.. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY!
SO THE HAGGARD BROTHERS DIED, AND PEACE RETURNED TO WARICK HEATH...
KRAK
CURSED IDIOT! YOU'VE DESTROYED YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!
..THIS BULLET WAS MEANT FOR YOUR BROTHER!
THE END.

PROLOGUE: "IN 1943, REKNOWNED SCIENTIST DR. CHADWICK BOUCHARD WAS COMMISSIONED BY OUR GOVERNMENT TO DEVISE A 'GROWTH DRUG.' DR. BOUCHARD SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS TRYING TO DISCOVER THIS DRUG, ONE SAFE ENOUGH TO USE ON ANY GIVEN SOLDIER, INCREASING BOTH HIS SIZE AND HIS POTENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL, DURING THE EVER-PRESENT WORLD WAR II."

D-7600

"THE DRUG WAS NEVER FOUND. DR BOUCHARD DIED ABRUPTLY ONE NIGHT, WHEN HIS MANOR HOME WAS RAZED BY FIRE."

NO! NO! GET BACK! GET...

BAM! BAM! BAM!

"THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE FIRE, BUT INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT A SPILLED OIL LAMP WAS THE START OF IT. WHO SPILLED THAT OIL LAMP, WE'LL NEVER KNOW."

YARRRGGHHHH

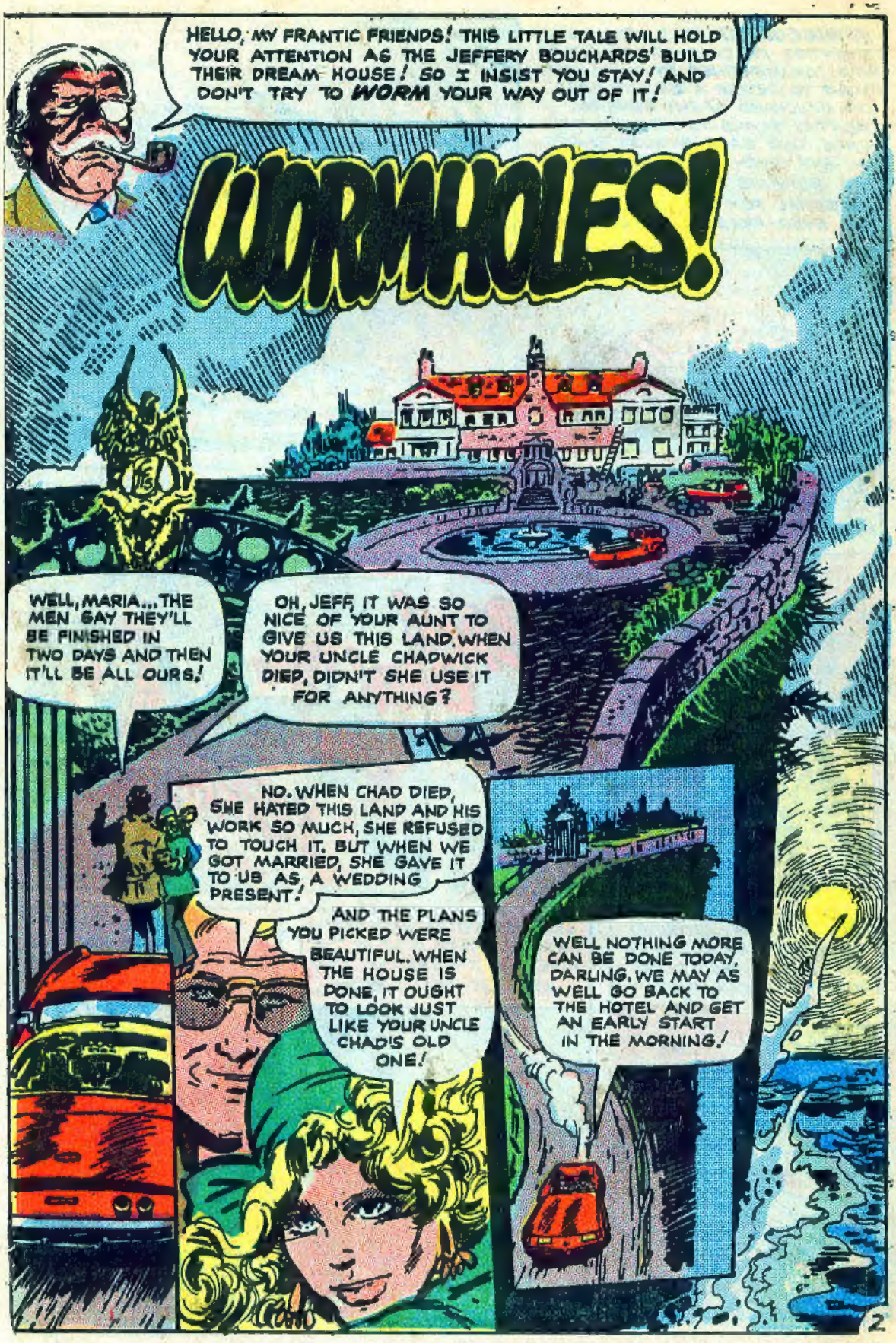
"SOME SAY A NAZI BUND ARRANGED THE DOCTOR'S 'ACCIDENT.' SOME SAY DR. BOUCHARD WAS JUST CARELESS."

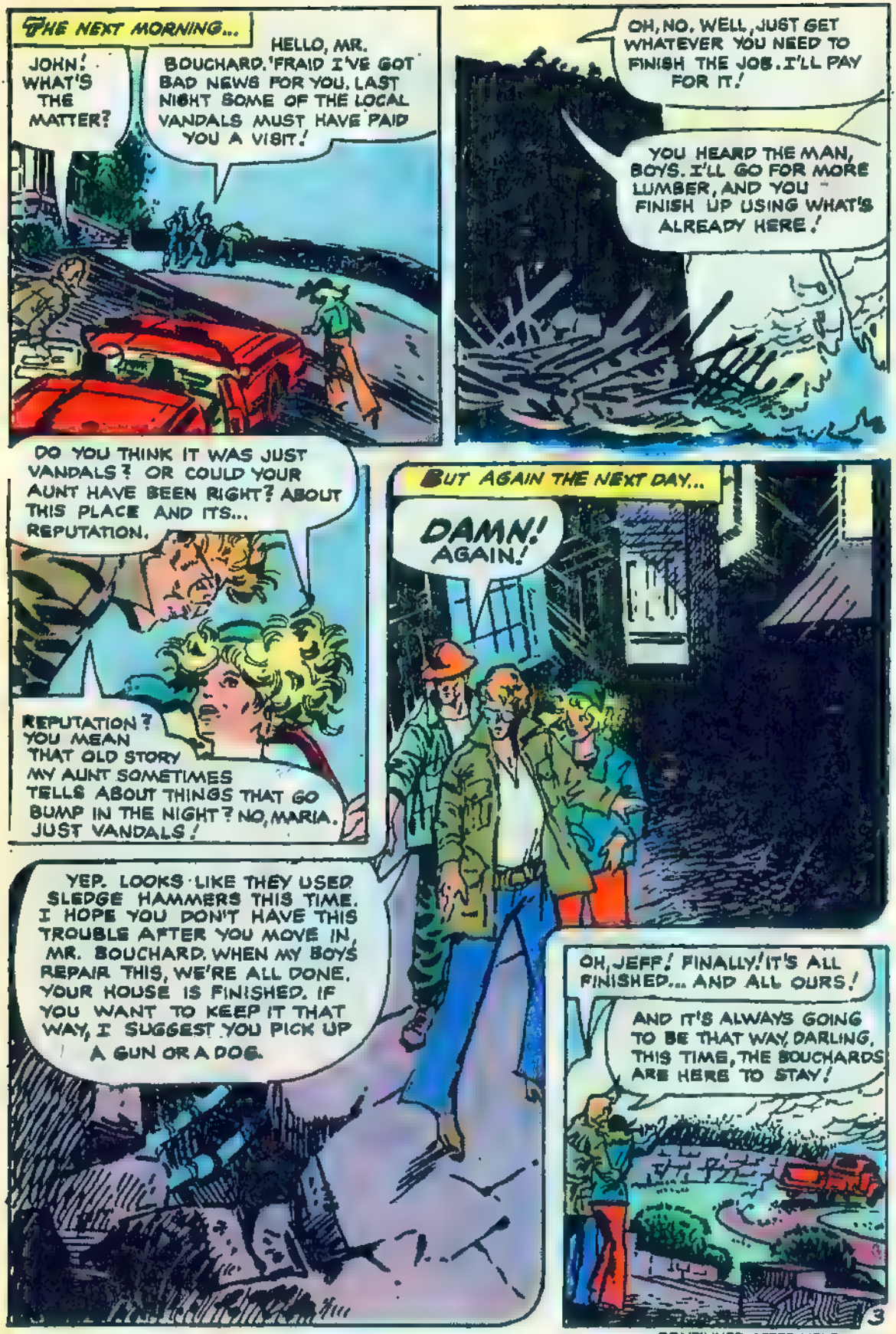
WRITER: STEVE CLEMENT

"ALL HIS NOTES AND EXPERIMENTS WERE LOST IN THE FIRE. SO I GUESS NO ONE WILL EVER REALLY KNOW..."

"...IF DOCTOR BOUCHARD EVER ACTUALLY DISCOVERED ANYTHING."

RE-APPORTIONMENT HORMONIC GROWTH FLUID


HELLO, MY FRANTIC FRIENDS! THIS LITTLE TALE WILL HOLD YOUR ATTENTION AS THE JEFFERY BOUCHARDS' BUILD THEIR DREAM HOUSE! SO I INSIST YOU STAY! AND DON'T TRY TO WORM YOUR WAY OUT OF IT!
WORMHOLES!
WELL, MARIA... THE MEN SAY THEY'LL BE FINISHED IN TWO DAYS AND THEN IT'LL BE ALL OURS!
OH, JEFF, IT WAS SO NICE OF YOUR AUNT TO GIVE US THIS LAND. WHEN YOUR UNCLE CHADWICK DIED, DIDN'T SHE USE IT FOR ANYTHING?
NO. WHEN CHAD DIED, SHE HATED THIS LAND AND HIS WORK SO MUCH, SHE REFUSED TO TOUCH IT. BUT WHEN WE GOT MARRIED, SHE GAVE IT TO US AS A WEDDING PRESENT!
AND THE PLANS YOU PICKED WERE BEAUTIFUL. WHEN THE HOUSE IS DONE, IT OUGHT TO LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR UNCLE CHAD'S OLD ONE!
WELL NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE TODAY, DARLING. WE MAY AS WELL GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND GET AN EARLY START IN THE MORNING!


THE NEXT MORNING...
JOHN! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HELLO, MR. BOUCHARD. 'FRAID I'VE GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU. LAST NIGHT SOME OF THE LOCAL VANDALS MUST HAVE PAID YOU A VISIT!
OH, NO. WELL, JUST GET WHATEVER YOU NEED TO FINISH THE JOB. I'LL PAY FOR IT!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, BOYS. I'LL GO FOR MORE LUMBER, AND YOU FINISH UP USING WHAT'S ALREADY HERE!
DO YOU THINK IT WAS JUST VANDALS? OR COULD YOUR AUNT HAVE BEEN RIGHT? ABOUT THIS PLACE AND ITS... REPUTATION.
REPUTATION? YOU MEAN THAT OLD STORY MY AUNT SOMETIMES TELLS ABOUT THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT? NO, MARIA. JUST VANDALS!
BUT AGAIN THE NEXT DAY...
DAMN! AGAIN!
YEP. LOOKS LIKE THEY USED SLEDGE HAMMERS THIS TIME. I HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE THIS TROUBLE AFTER YOU MOVE IN, MR. BOUCHARD. WHEN MY BOYS REPAIR THIS, WE'RE ALL DONE. YOUR HOUSE IS FINISHED. IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, I SUGGEST YOU PICK UP A GUN OR A DOG.
OH, JEFF! FINALLY! IT'S ALL FINISHED... AND ALL OURS!
AND IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE THAT WAY, DARLING. THIS TIME, THE BOUCHARDS ARE HERE TO STAY!
3

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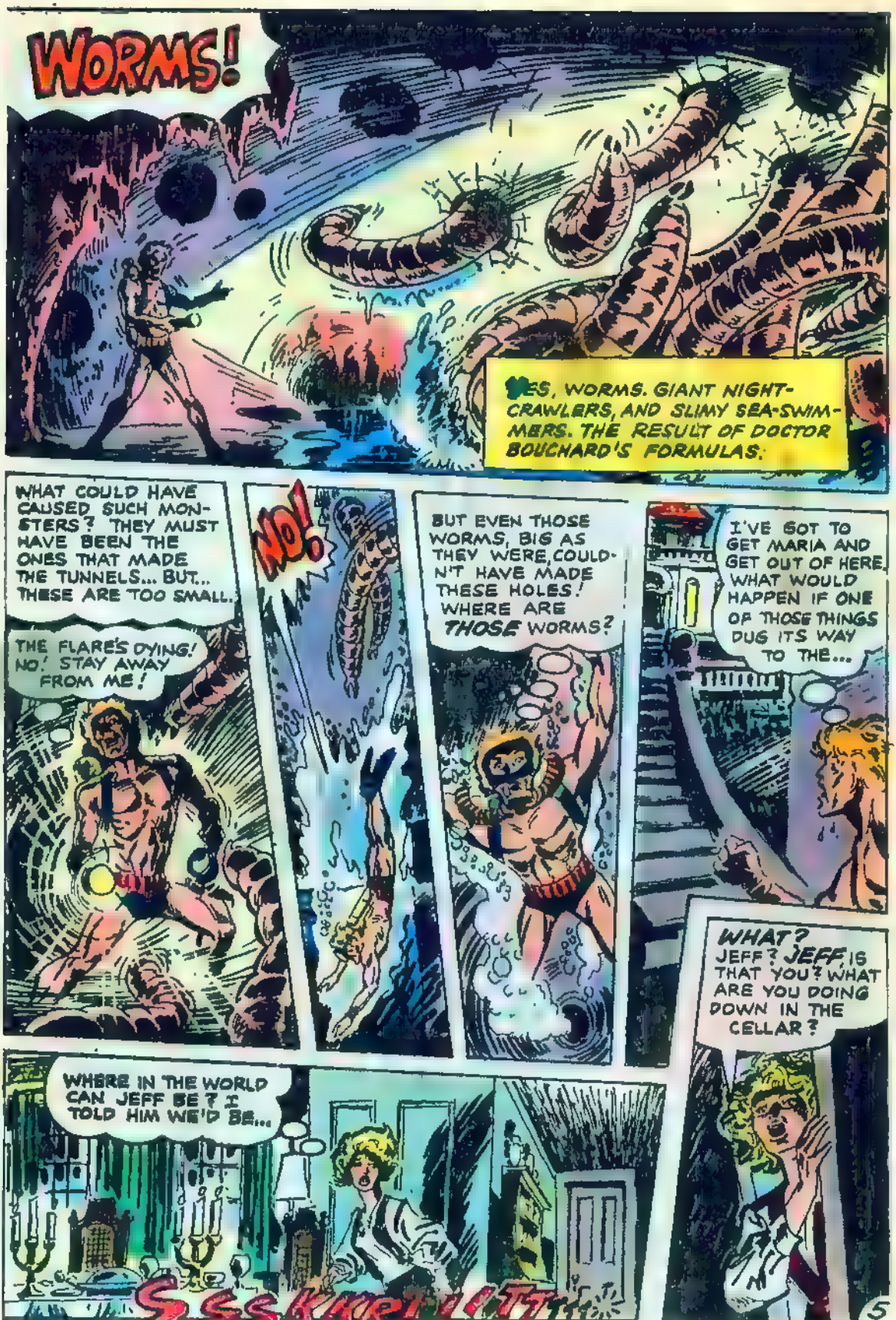
HONEY, I'M GOING TO TAKE A DIVE DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF AND POKE AROUND IN THOSE CAVES.
FINE! I'LL PROBABLY JUST LAY SOME MORE OF THAT TILE IN THE BATHROOM AND MAKE DINNER. DON'T FORGET TO COME BACK UP!
I WON'T.
ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES LATER.
MY UNCLE SURE KNEW HOW TO LIVE. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BEACH! NOW, LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THOSE CAVES!
MY GOD! THE SYMMETRY OF THESE TUNNELS ARE BEAUTIFUL! I DON'T THINK EVEN WATER COULD CAUSE SUCH SMOOTHNESS! IT'S ALMOST LIKE ...WHAT AM I THINKING! THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
WELL...AN UNDERWATER AIR POCKET! I CAN SEE A ROCK LEDGE THERE. I THINK I'LL CLIMB OUT AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND!
HEY! THE AIR IN HERE IS AWFULLY FRESH! YOU'D THINK IT WOULD AT LEAST BE A LITTLE STALE, BEING HERE ALL THESE YEARS, BOTTLED UP LIKE THIS, WITH NO AIR COMING IN OR GOING OUT.
OH, MY SWEET GOD!


WORMS!
YES, WORMS. GIANT NIGHT-CRAWLERS, AND SLIMY SEA-SWIMMERS. THE RESULT OF DOCTOR BOUCHARD'S FORMULAS.
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH MONSTERS? THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONES THAT MADE THE TUNNELS... BUT... THESE ARE TOO SMALL.
THE FLARE'S DYING! NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
NO!
BUT EVEN THOSE WORMS, BIG AS THEY WERE, COULDN'T HAVE MADE THESE HOLES! WHERE ARE THOSE WORMS?
I'VE GOT TO GET MARIA AND GET OUT OF HERE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE OF THOSE THINGS DUG ITS WAY TO THE...
WHAT? JEFF? JEFF IS THAT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN IN THE CELLAR?
WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN JEFF BE? I TOLD HIM WE'D BE...
SSSKRIIITT
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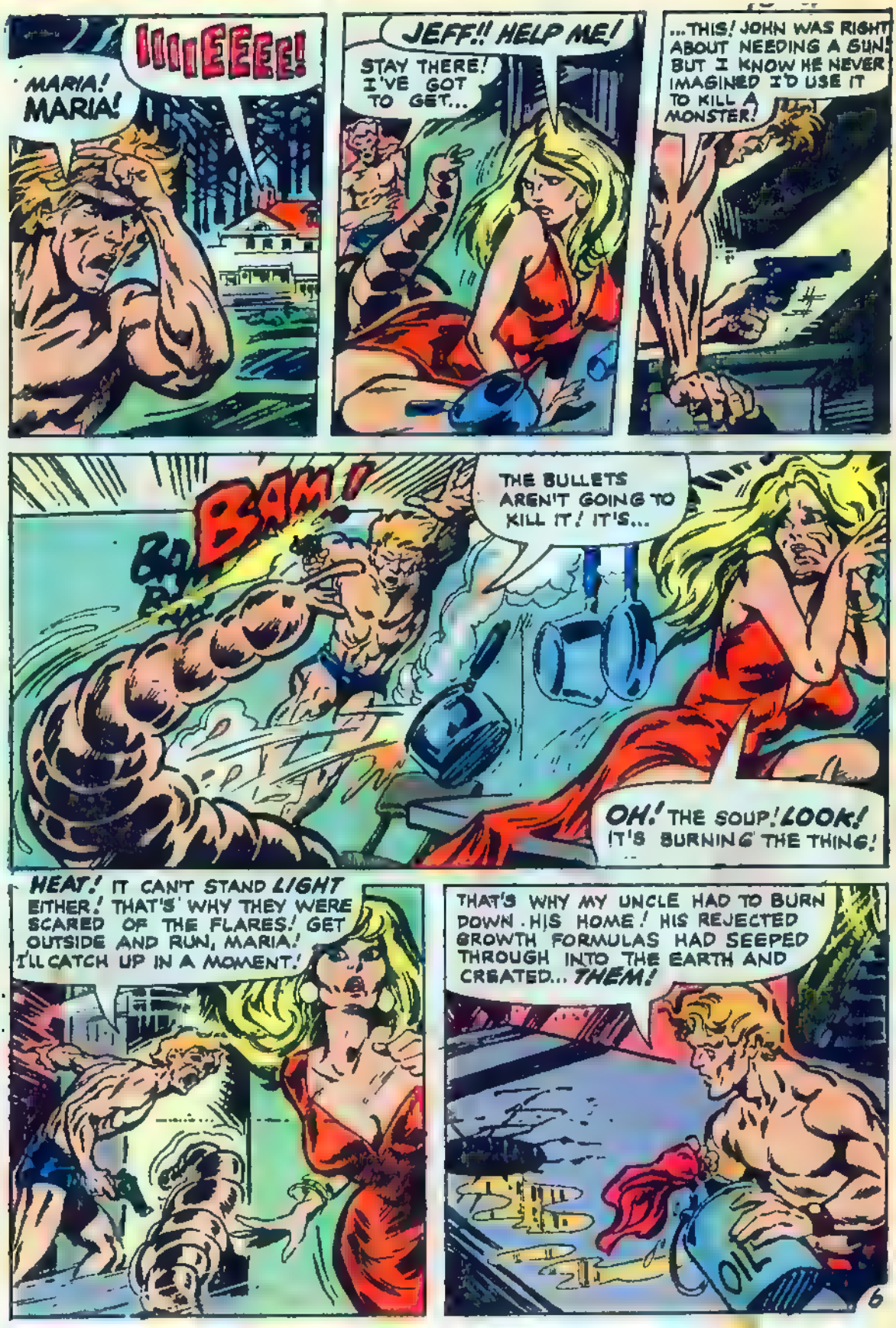
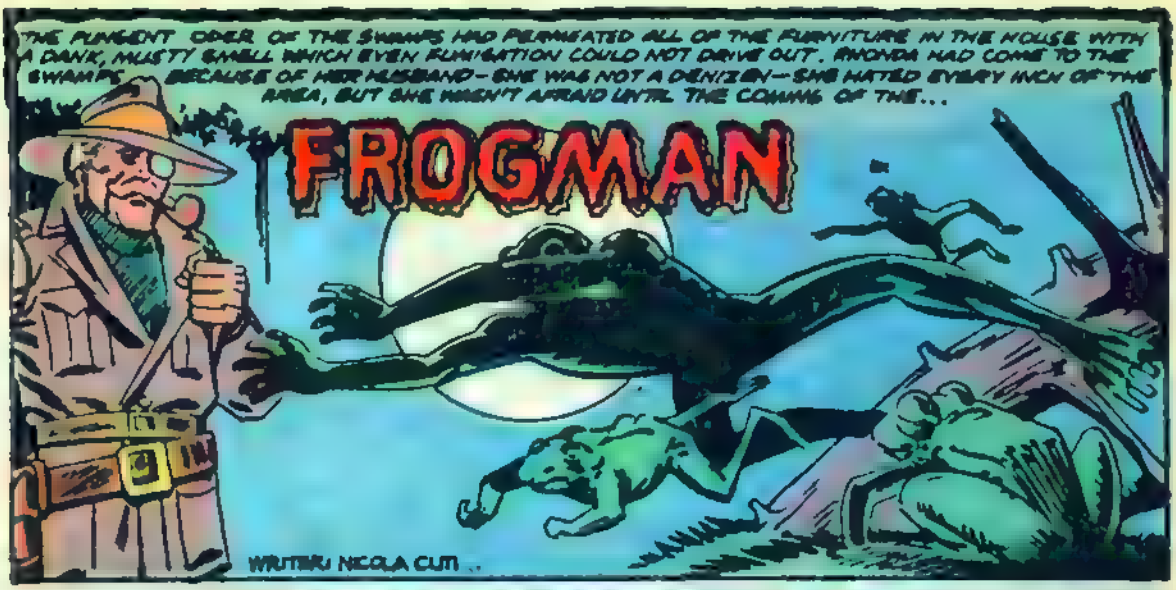

!!!EEEE!
MARIA! MARIA!
JEFF!! HELP ME!
STAY THERE! I'VE GOT TO GET...
...THIS! JOHN WAS RIGHT ABOUT NEEDING A GUN! BUT I KNOW HE NEVER IMAGINED I'D USE IT TO KILL A MONSTER!
BAM!
THE BULLETS AREN'T GOING TO KILL IT! IT'S...
OH! THE SOUP! LOOK! IT'S BURNING THE THING!
HEAT! IT CAN'T STAND LIGHT EITHER! THAT'S WHY THEY WERE SCARED OF THE FLARES! GET OUTSIDE AND RUN, MARIA! I'LL CATCH UP IN A MOMENT!
THAT'S WHY MY UNCLE HAD TO BURN DOWN HIS HOME! HIS REJECTED GROWTH FORMULAS HAD SEEPED THROUGH INTO THE EARTH AND CREATED... THEM!
OIL

HE COULD ONLY DESTROY THOSE THAT HAD ATTACKED HIM! BUT I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THEIR NEST... WITHOUT ENDING UP LIKE MY UNCLE! HERE GOES...
EVERYTHING!
JEFFERY!
SHA-WHOOM!
ROCKY WALLS CRUMBLED BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH... MUCH TOO FAST FOR THE WORMS TO DIG THEIR WAY THROUGH. CRUSHED TOGETHER BETWEEN MASSIVE ROCK WALLS, IS NOT A PLEASENT FATE.
I'M O.K., DARLING... AND SO ARE YOU. THAT OIL CAN REALLY BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE!
YES. OURS! BUT JUST AS LONG AS YOU'REALL RIGHT AND THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS ARE GONE!
AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, MY UNCLE CAN REST. I'M GOING TO COME BACK AND REBUILD, DARLING. IT'S ALL OVER, AND THIS TIME THE BOUCHARDS ARE HERE TO STAY!
END

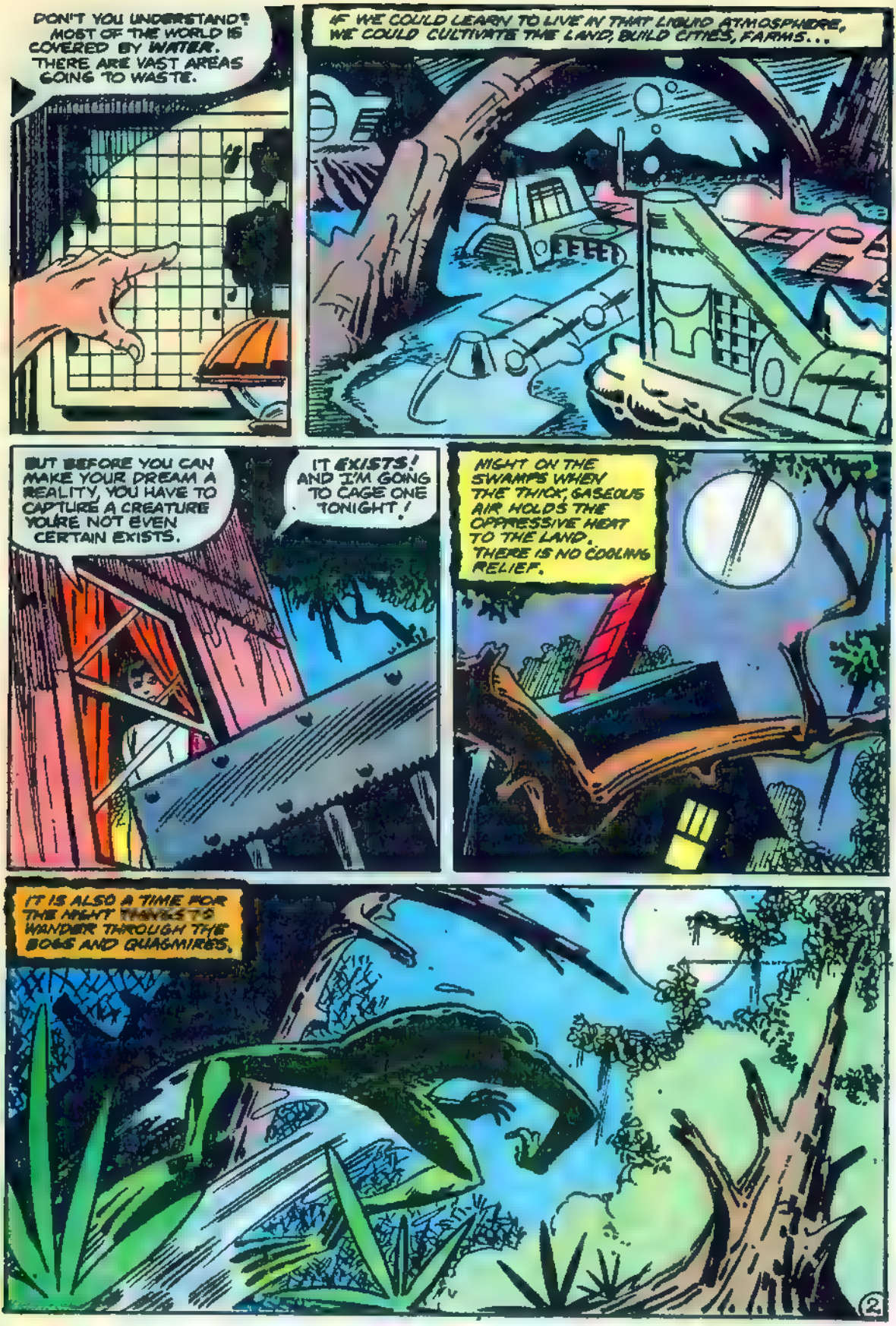
HAUNTED HOUSES
GOOD EVENING ALL, COL. WHITE-SHROUD HERE TO TAKE YOU ON A TOUR OF HAUNTED HOUSES. THERE ARE MANY KINDS, BUT WE WILL VISIT THE MOST POPULAR ONES. IN THESE EDIFICES, ONLY THE MOST LORDLY SPIRITS MAY ROAM.
A CASTLE IS MERELY A STONE BUILDING SURROUNDED BY WALLS. IT IS A FORTRESS BUILT TO PROTECT A KING. IN SHAKESPEAR'S HAMLET, THE GHOST OF HAMLET'S FATHER HAUNTED THE BATTLEMENTS.
A PALACE IS DIFFERENT FROM A CASTLE BECAUSE IT IS USUALLY FOUND IN THE CENTER OF A CITY RATHER THAN ISOLATED. PALACES ARE MOSTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORIENT, SUCH AS CHINA OR ARABIA.
A VILLA IS A COUNTRY ESTATE OF A WEALTHY PERSON. SINCE A VILLA IS VISITED ONLY WHEN ITS OWNER IS ON VACATION, PHANTOMS PROWL MOST OF THE TIME UNDISTURBED.
THE LAST OF COURSE, IS MY FAVORITE. THIS IS A MANSION OR MANOR HOUSE. IN THIS GREAT PLACE LIVED THE LORD OF THE MANOR WHO OWNED MOST OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT AT ANY TIME AT GHOST MANOR.


THE PUNGENT ODOR OF THE SWAMPS HAD PERMEATED ALL OF THE FURNITURE IN THE HOUSE WITH A DANK, MUSTY SMELL WHICH EVEN FUMIGATION COULD NOT DRIVE OUT. RHONDA HAD COME TO THE SWAMPS BECAUSE OF HER HUSBAND—SHE WAS NOT A DENIZEN—SHE HATED EVERY INCH OF THE AREA, BUT SHE WASN'T AFRAID UNTIL THE COMING OF THE...
FROGMAN
WRITER: NICOLA CUTI

WELL, I JUST WENT INTO THE KITCHEN TO MAKE SOME SANDWICHES AND THE BREAD IS MOLDY. THAT'S THE THIRD RUINED LOAF THIS MONTH.
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED HOW TO TAKE CARE OF FOOD, YET? WE'VE BEEN IN THE SWAMPS FOR ALMOST HALF A YEAR.

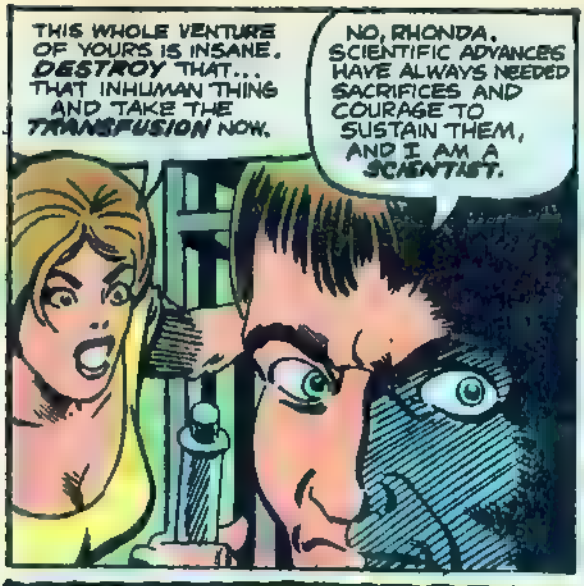
I'M VERY WELL AWARE OF OUR TIME SPENT IN THIS...SEWER. WHEN ARE WE GOING TO LEAVE?
AS SOON AS I CATCH A FROGMAN; ONE OF THE NATIVES HAS ACTUALLY SHOWN ME A PICTURE OF ONE. COME INTO THE HOUSE WITH ME.

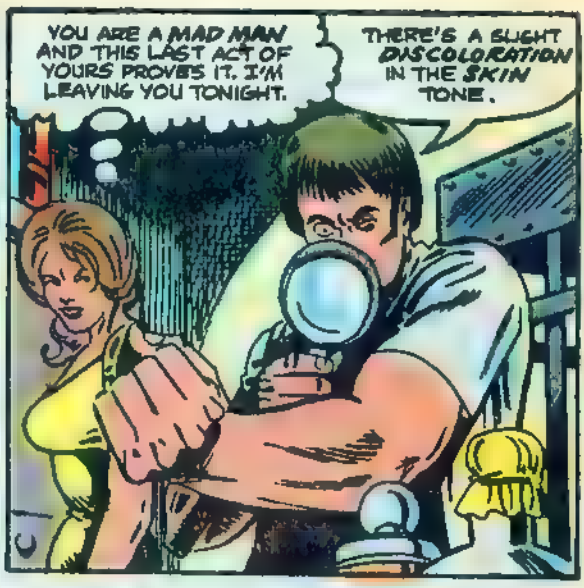
THIS IS A CREATURE THAT CAN LIVE UNDERWATER AS EASILY AS IT LIVES ON THE LAND. IT IS A TRUE AMPHIBIAN.
SO WHAT? WHY COULDN'T WE CHASE THE LOCH NESS MONSTER INSTEAD OF THIS SWAMP ANIMAL? I WOULD ENJOY SCOTLAND BETTER THAN THIS PLACE.


DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? MOST OF THE WORLD IS COVERED BY WATER. THERE ARE VAST AREAS GOING TO WASTE.
IF WE COULD LEARN TO LIVE IN THAT LIQUID ATMOSPHERE, WE COULD CULTIVATE THE LAND, BUILD CITIES, FARMS...
BUT BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DREAM A REALITY, YOU HAVE TO CAPTURE A CREATURE YOU'RE NOT EVEN CERTAIN EXISTS.
IT EXISTS! AND I'M GOING TO CAGE ONE TONIGHT!
NIGHT ON THE SWAMPS WHEN THE THICK, GASEOUS AIR HOLDS THE OPPRESSIVE HEAT TO THE LAND. THERE IS NO COOLING RELIEF.
IT IS ALSO A TIME FOR THE NIGHT TRAVELS TO WANDER THROUGH THE BOGS AND QUAGMIRES.
2

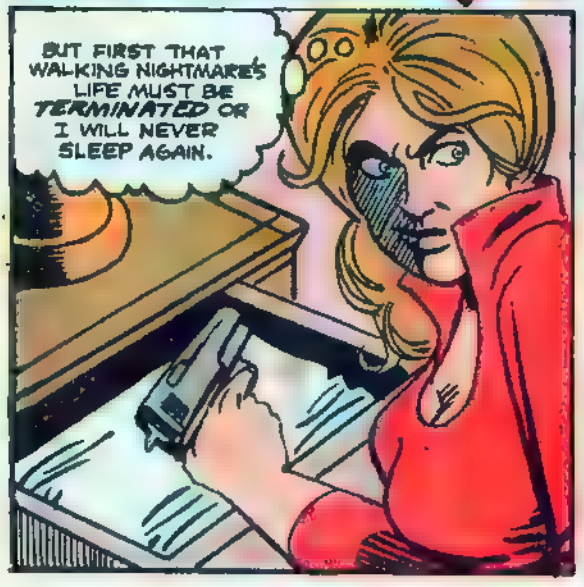
THE BEAST SEES THE CAGE BUT CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT'S PUPOSE, HOWEVER, IT DETECTS FOOD INSIDE...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT? IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THE ALARM CLOCK TO GO OFF.
I WIRED THE DOOR TO THE CAGE TO SET OFF THE BELL WHEN IT SLAMS SHUT.
BRING
SO YOU'VE CAUGHT AN ANIMAL. THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S YOUR FROGMAN.
THE DOOR WON'T CLOSE FOR ANYTHING UNDER A HUNDRED POUNDS AND THERE IS NO CREATURE IN THE SWAMP THAT WEIGHS THAT MUCH. IT HAS TO BE MY AMPHIBIAN.
GOOD LORD! YOU WERE RIGHT!
YOU'VE CAGED A MAN. YOU CAN SEE BY HIS OUTLINE. HE MIGHT SUE US IF HE'S HURT.
IT'S NOT A MAN. LOOK CLOSER.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING, RHONDA. THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MAKING MANKIND THE DOMINANT SPECIES IN THE WATERS OF THE EARTH!
3.

I'LL TRANQUILLIZE HIM AND WE'LL BRING HIM INTO THE HOUSE SO THAT I CAN START THE EXPERIMENTS.
WHY NOT? HALF THE SWAMP IS ALREADY IN THE HOUSE.
THE DAWN HAD HARDLY BROKEN IN THE SWAMP WHEN WILL INITIATED HIS TESTING.
IT'S IN THE BLOOD, RHONDA. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.
WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?
ENZYMES AND UNIDENTIFIABLE CHEMICALS WHICH HAS GIVEN THIS CREATURE THE ORGANS TO BREATH UNDERWATER.
BE CAREFUL, WILL. THE THING IS POWERFUL.
THE FROGMAN'S BLOOD IS SIMILAR IN COMPOSITION TO OUR BLOOD. IT SHOULD MIX WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING?
STOP IT, YOU IDIOT! YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!
I HAVE TO TRY IT. IF THE BLOOD WON'T MIX, I'LL NEED AN EMERGENCY TRANSFUSION. YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME WITH THAT.


THIS WHOLE VENTURE OF YOURS IS INSANE. DESTROY THAT... THAT INHUMAN THING AND TAKE THE TRANSFUSION NOW.
NO, RHONDA. SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES HAVE ALWAYS NEEDED SACRIFICES AND COURAGE TO SUSTAIN THEM, AND I AM A SCIENTIST.


YOU ARE A MAD MAN AND THIS LAST ACT OF YOURS PROVES IT. I'M LEAVING YOU TONIGHT.
THERE'S A SLIGHT DISCOLORATION IN THE SKIN TONE.

THE NEXT EVENING SET ANOTHER CREATURE ON THE PROWL. IT WAS A FAR MORE DANGEROUS ANIMAL THAN THE FROGMAN.
AS SOON AS I REACH CIVILIZATION, I'M GOING TO HAVE HIM COMMITED AND I'LL BE RID OF THE LUNATIC.


BUT FIRST THAT WALKING NIGHTMARE'S LIFE MUST BE TERMINATED OR I WILL NEVER SLEEP AGAIN.

YOU UNHOLY ABOMINATION! DIE! DIE!
5

RHONDA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
WILL, YOU FRIGHTENED ME!
I WANT YOU TO COME BACK WITH ME. THE THING IS DEAD SO THERE'S NOTHING KEEPING YOU HERE.
THERE IS NOW. I'M AFRAID THAT I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME.
EVER AGAIN!
AA IEEE!
DON'T RUN OFF, RHONDA! MY MIND HASN'T CHANGED. I'M STILL YOUR HUSBAND, WILL..
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I WANTED YOUR ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE THE EXPERIMENT, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FINISH IT ALONE.
VRROOM

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

I CAN'T SLEEP. I MIGHT AS WELL SEE IF ANY OF MY INTERNAL ORGANS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. THAT MEANS A SWIM IN THE MURKY SWAMP WATER.
STRANGE, MY MIND IS BECOMING HAZY, UNCLEAR. I HAVE A POWERFUL DESIRE TO DIVE INTO THE THE WATER... SO CALM. SO BEAUTIFUL.
SPLASH!
THE NIGHT WAS HARDLY THE TIME TO DRIVE THROUGH THE SWAMP ESPECIALLY FOR A PERSON IN RHONDA'S MENTAL CONDITION.
I GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! HE'S COMING FOR ME.
RHONDA MISSED A SHARP CURVE AND DROVE THE CAR OFF THE EDGE OF THE NARROW, MUDDY ROAD.
YIII!
MY LEGS! I THINK THAT THEY'RE BROKEN! I'M... WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING IS COMING THIS WAY.
WILL! THANK GOD IT'S YOU. I WAS A FOOL TO RUN OFF THE WAY I DID. I NEED YOU. AREN'T YOU GOING TO....

OH, WILL, YOU'VE COMPLETELY BECOME THAT MONSTER. IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT OF THE ORIGINAL?
HURT. YOU... ARE...INJURED... I...HELP...
WATER IS...LIFE. IT IS... BEGINNING OF ALL... LIFE. WATER WILL...RESTORE YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I NEED DOCTORS... MEDICINE. WATER CAN'T SAVE ME!
WILL HAD EXPERIENCED A REBIRTH INTO A CREATURE THAT WAS UNBURDENED BY COMPLEX MENTAL PROCESSES. HE WAS ANXIOUS FOR HIS WIFE TO LIKEWISE UNDERGO THE METAMORPHOSIS... TOO ANXIOUS.
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS! I CAN'T BREATHE UNDERWATER! I CAN'T.
THE END

STALKING THE STRANGLER

Inspector Marat abruptly halted at the closed, office door. The Chief of Detectives was waiting to see him.

Beads of perspiration dotted Marat's forehead like a pox that was spreading fast. He hesitated. He didn't want to knock. He didn't want to enter the Captain's office. He didn't want to hear what the Captain had to say.

Marat fidgeted. His fingers trembled as he raised his hand to knock at the door. If the Captain wanted to take him off of the strange case of the Strangler, there was nothing Marat could do about the Captain's decision.

Ten women were dead — strangled! Last night, the murderer had followed his usual M.O. When the sun rose, another woman was lifeless and the case was still unsolved.

The killer continually escaped Marat even though Marat knew the Strangler almost as well as he knew himself. He didn't know the man's name, but he knew the Strangler's thoughts, his moods, and his methods. It was as if the murderer were Marat's own shadow. He seemed to be within reach of Marat's grasp, but he couldn't be captured!

The case was a mystery to Marat and to everyone connected with it. There was no doubt that the killer was a madman; but in his madness, he was cunningly clever. He left no clues, no tracks, no evidence. As well as Marat knew the killer, the killer knew Marat. It was as if the two men shared the same brain.

How could a man catch his double in flesh, soul and spirit? That was the problem! That was why the killer was still on the loose!

"Come in Marat," called the Captain from inside of his office. "Calm yourself, Inspector, and come in. I know what you're thinking. Don't worry. I haven't summoned you here to take you off of the strangler case!"

Slowly, Marat turned the door nob. Swiftly, he pushed the door open. Boldly, he stepped into the Captain's office.

The Captain's words had given him new life, new courage, new hope. He would not be taken off the case. There was no longer any reason to be worried or fearful.

Quickly, Marat closed the door behind him. Instantly, his eyes scanned the room. Marat was a good policeman with extraordinary powers of observation. When he spied the attractive, young, policewoman seated near the Captain's desk, he knew that the mademoiselle was going to be his partner and tempting bait for the Strangler.

"I can tell by your face that you've put two and two together," said the Captain as he addressed his subordinate.

"Yes! I know what is in your mind," replied Marat stoically. "The girl is very beautiful. The Strangler will not be able to resist her, but I'm against the scheme even though it is a cunning plot. I always work alone!"

"In the old days, I would have catered to your whim, but this is a difficult case!" answered the Captain coldly. "As closely as you've examined the clues, I too have examined them. I've drawn my own conclusions. You haven't been the same man ever since the night you found your lifeless wife and her dead lover in your quarters when you returned home. Their suicide pact didn't free you from the evil hold she had on you. Part of you died that night. You are not the same detective you once were. You need help to solve this case!"

Sadly, Marat nodded in agreement. The Captain was right. Finding his wife and her lover had almost turned him ino a madman. For a long while, his mind had teeter - tottered on the brink of insanity. He did need help to solve the strange case of the strangler.

Late that night, the policewoman decoy slowly sauntered through the shadowy side streets and alleys of the city while Marat watched and waited.

As she passed a dark corner, it happened! The Strangler grabbed her from behind and pulled her into the shadows. She couldn't see his face, but his hands were around her neck choking the breath out of her lungs. Her vision was clouded. She couldn't even scream for help! Where was Inspector Marat?

Then, a single shot rang out and echoed through the silent streets. The hands around her neck loosened. Someone moaned behind her and a body dropped dead at her feet.

The girl turned to see the Chief of Detectives standing behind her. In his hand was a smoking revolver. On the alleyway floor, was the lifeless body of Inspector Marat.

"He was mad," explained the Captain. "He couldn't solve the case because he was chasing himself. His wife betrayed him and it made him hate all women. The ironic thing is — that Marat never guessed that he, himself, was the Strangler. He was two men — one good, one evil! Now the strange case of the strangler is finally solved!"